



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/714,315	11/16/2000	Sharon Greener	3499-91	6479

56678 7590 12/28/2006  
LEE & HAYES, PLLC  
421 W. RIVERSIDE AVE.  
SUITE 500  
SPOKANE, WA 99201

EXAMINER
----------

AKINTOLA, OLABODE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3691

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/28/2006	ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 12/28/2006.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

lhpto@leehayes.com

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/714,315

Applicant(s)

GREENER ET AL.

Examiner

Olabode Akintola

Art Unit

3691

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 63-77 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-62 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-4 and 63-77 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/27/06 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 63-77, 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In particular, Claims 64, 72 and 77 disclose the step of "iteratively calculating the multiple interrelated parameters using output values from one iteration as input values for the next iteration until stable values within respective threshold are achieved for each parameter". This step is not supported or disclosed in the original disclosure and therefore constitute a new matter.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101*

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 72-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims are directed to a computer program per se or data structure of a computer or software and therefore not statutory under 35 U.S. C. 101. This is exemplified in In re Warmerdam 31

USPQ2d 1754 where the rejection of a claim to a disembodied data structure was affirmed.

Thus a claim to a data structure, per se, or other functional descriptive material, including computer programs, per se, is not patent eligible subject matter.

Functional descriptive material claimed in combination with an appropriate computer readable medium to enable the functionality to be realized is patent eligible subject matter if it is capable of producing a useful, concrete and tangible result when used in the computer system. Compare Warmerdam to In re Lowry 32 USPQ2d 1031 where a memory with a data structure that increased computing efficiency was patentable.

The computer readable medium loaded with a computer program and in association with a computer provides the functional descriptive material in usable form to permit the functionality to be realized with the computer. A program product which does not explicitly include such a medium, a program per se, a signal or other type of transmission media that fails to include the hardware necessary to realize the functionality (e.g., a transmitter or a receiver), and a piece of paper with the functional descriptive material written on it are all examples of media which are

not believed to enable the functionality to be realized with the computer.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 64-69, 71-77 and 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pool et al (US 6460020) ("Pool").

Re claims 64, 72 and 77: Pool teaches a computer-implemented method for determining values of multiple interrelated parameters of an e-commerce transaction across multiple currencies to manage a sales risk, comprising: linking the multiple interrelated parameters of the e-commerce transaction in one or more feedback loops such that calculating each parameter affects calculating at least some of the other parameters; wherein calculating each parameter provides an output value used as one of multiple input values for calculating at least some of the other parameters, and calculating each parameter uses as input the output values from calculating at least some of the other parameters; and iteratively calculating the multiple interrelated parameters using output values from one iteration as input values for the next iteration until stable values within respective thresholds are achieved for each parameter (Abstract, col. 7, lines

28-42, Appendix II (cols. 15-16)).

Re claims 65 and 73: Pool teaches wherein linking the multiple interrelated parameters includes linking one or more of: a sales price for a good or service of the e-commerce transaction; a current price for each of the multiple currencies; a cost for an exchange between two of the multiple currencies; a cost of credit to be extended to a buyer of the good or service; a sales risk of the e-commerce transaction; an amount of insurance to cover the sales price; a cost for the amount of insurance; and a shipping or handling cost (Abstract, col. 7, lines 28-42).

Re claims 66 and 74: Pool teaches receiving one or more real-time feeds of changing input values, wherein each real-time feed provides a dynamic input value for calculating at least some of the multiple interrelated parameters (Abstract, col. 7, lines 28-42).

Re claims 67 and 75: Pool teaches wherein receiving the one or more real-time feeds includes receiving a feed of a dynamic input value selected from the list of dynamic input values: a fluctuating exchange factor between two of the multiple currencies; a fluctuating value of the good or service being transacted; a fluctuating spot price of one of the currencies; a renegotiable currency price; a fluctuating tolerance level for one of the parameters; a fluctuating creditworthiness of the buyer; a fluctuating volume discount factor; a fluctuating buyer discount factor; a fluctuating time window for the e-commerce transaction; a fluctuating sales volume history of the good or service; a fluctuating volume of business of the buyer; a fluctuating competing bid; a fluctuating procurement cost of the good or service; a fluctuating risk

Art Unit: 3691

associated with the buyer or seller; a fluctuating payment history; a current type or designation of the good or service; and a fluctuating amount of collateral (Abstract, col. 6, lines 19-22).

Re claims 68 and 76: Pool teaches wherein in response to receiving a change in one of the dynamic input values, iteratively re-calculating the multiple interrelated parameters a sufficient number of times to obtain a stable value within a threshold for each of the multiple interrelated parameters (Abstract, col. 7, lines 28-42, Appendix II (cols. 15-16)).

Re claim 69: Pool teaches wherein a sales price parameter partly determines and is partly determined by a risk of transaction parameter; wherein the risk of transaction parameter partly determines and is partly determined by an amount of insurance parameter; wherein the sales price parameter partly determines and is partly determined by the amount of insurance parameter; and wherein the sales price parameter is partly determined by a price of currency parameter (Abstract, col. 7, lines 28-42, Appendix II (cols. 15-16)).

Re claim 71: Pool teaches wherein a spot currency price changes a sales price for a good or service of the e-commerce transaction; a currency exchange cost changes the sales price; a cost of credit changes the sales price; a sales risk of the e-commerce transaction changes the sales price; an amount of insurance to cover the good or service changes the sales price; a shipping or handling cost changes the sales price; and the sales price changes the currency exchange cost, the cost of credit, the sales risk, the amount of insurance, and the shipping and handling cost (Abstract, col. 7, lines 28-42, Appendix II (cols. 15-16)).

Art Unit: 3691

Re claim 2: Pool teaches transmitting via a transmission medium and a communications network, the calculated aggregated price to a network access device with a participant in the transaction wherein the aggregate price is converted to the amount and units of the participant's type of currency (col. 5, lines 58-67).

Re claim 3: Pool teaches transmitting to the network access device a detail of the price, wherein the detail comprises: the cost of credit, based upon the amount of currency involved in the transaction, the period allowed until repayment, the rate of interest, and the volume of business the participant transacts; the cost for exchange of currency; and the amount of first a currency relating to the price of the deliverable good or service (col. 5, lines 58-67, col. 4, lines 16-20).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.



Art Unit: 3691

4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1,4, 63 and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool as applied to claim 64 above, in view of Boesch et al (US 5897621) ("Boesch").

Re claims 1,4, 63 and 70: Pool does not explicitly teach determining a cost for credit to be extended to a participant of the e-commerce transaction, wherein the credit is extended based upon one or more of the parameters comprising a volume of business a credit provider conducts with a participant, a type of deliverable and collateral for the credit; calculating a cost for exchange of a first currency to a second currency, wherein the cost of exchange is based upon one or more of the parameters comprising currencies involved in the transaction, an aggregate volume of currency exchanged by the participant and the amount of the associated transaction, and is effective for a predetermined period of time; and calculating an aggregate price to the customer for the good or service wherein the aggregate price comprises an aggregate of the cost of credit, the cost for exchange of currency and the amount of first currency relating to the price of the deliverable; wherein a cost of credit parameter partly determines and is partly determined by a sales price parameter; wherein the cost of credit parameter is partly determined by a creditworthiness parameter; and wherein the sales price parameter is partly determined by the creditworthiness parameter; discounting the cost for exchange of currency according to a volume discount parameter relating to aggregate volume associated with a participant in the transaction. Boesch, in the same field of endeavor teaches determining a cost for credit to be extended to a participant of the e-commerce transaction, wherein the credit is extended based upon one or

Art Unit: 3691

more of the parameters comprising a volume of business a credit provider conducts with a participant, a type of deliverable and collateral for the credit; calculating a cost for exchange of a first currency to a second currency, wherein the cost of exchange is based upon one or more of the parameters comprising currencies involved in the transaction, an aggregate volume of currency exchanged by the participant and the amount of the associated transaction, and is effective for a predetermined period of time; and calculating an aggregate price to the customer for the good or service wherein the aggregate price comprises an aggregate of the cost of credit, the cost for exchange of currency and the amount of first currency relating to the price of the deliverable; wherein a cost of credit parameter partly determines and is partly determined by a sales price parameter; wherein the cost of credit parameter is partly determined by a creditworthiness parameter; and wherein the sales price parameter is partly determined by the creditworthiness parameter (col. 9, lines 11-39); discounting the cost for exchange of currency according to a volume discount parameter relating to aggregate volume associated with a participant in the transaction (col. 8, lines 54-58). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Pool to include these steps as taught by Boesch. One would have been motivated to do so in order to ensure that these parameters are linked to and dependent on other parameter, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and functionality of the system.

***Conclusion***

**Examiner's Note:** Examiner has cited particular portions of the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

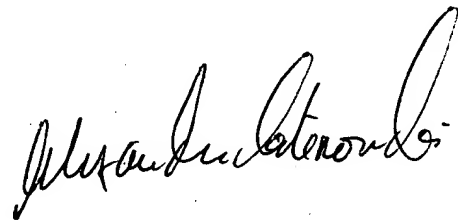
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olabode Akintola whose telephone number is 571-272-3629. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM -5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on 571-272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3691

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander Kalinowski', is written in a cursive style.

ALEXANDER KALINOWSKI  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER